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## Get to know LA

AUSSIE agents will soon have the opportunity to connect with Los Angeles suppliers at Visit USA expos next week in Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney.

Tourism LA, Universal Studios Hollywood, The Garland, Citadel Outlets and more will be there - see the **back page** for details.

Explore!

Swap 'so-so' for solo!



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14-26 February 2024.

Find out more

## James Hewlett joins ATIA

**FORMER** Collette marketing chief James Hewlett has been appointed by The Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA) to help boost its corporate partner engagement (**TD** breaking news yesterday).

Hewlett (**pictured**) will also assist with the rollout of ATIA's individual membership program, drawing on two decades of experience including seven years leading Collette's marketing team before his departure last year (**TD** 31 Oct 2023).

"We are delighted to add James' skills and experience to the ATIA team," Chief Executive Officer Dean Long said.

"His extensive background in marketing, complemented by his



deep understanding of the travel industry, further deepens the ATIA team's capacity especially as we entrench the corporate and individual membership offerings."

The Sydney-based marketing expert has held prominent positions at Wendy Wu Tours, Titan Travel, and Hurtigruten, and is the founder of Endurance Marketing and Consulting.

He also currently serves on the executive team at Visit USA, and volunteers as a mentor for final year tourism students at the University of Surrey. *JM*

## The TD team grows

**TRAVEL Daily** has welcomed Jo-Anne Hui-Miller to the team as Business Publishing Group's new Associate Publisher.

Bringing an abundance of experience in B2B publishing, Hui-Miller joins from The General Store where she was Content and Insights Director, and prior to that she was Managing Editor at Inside Retail Asia-Pacific for six years.

## Today's issue of TD

**Travel Daily** today features five pages of the latest news including **Business Events News**, plus a full page from **Los Angeles Tourism**.

## QF domestic sale

**QANTAS** has released more than 500,000 discounted fares on most routes across its domestic network for 72 hours.

Prices for economy fares start from \$109 one-way, with more than 25 routes on sale for less than \$150, for travel between Apr and mid-Sep 2024.

The sale includes destinations to and from most capital cities and regional towns, including Brisbane to Prosperine and Adelaide to Kangaroo Island.

Travellers can also take advantage of QF's current New Zealand sale until 19 Feb.

## Win a trip to NY

**IN CELEBRATION** of its 50th birthday, Viva Holidays has partnered with Air New Zealand to offer agents a spot on an exclusive New York fam.

There are 11 spots up for grabs for agents who book eligible Air New Zealand flights or Viva Holidays product - details **HERE**.

Explore!

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## Ponant Europe '25

**PONANT** has launched a selection of 2025 European 'Grand Voyages' for Australian and New Zealand travellers.

The sailings combine back-to-back itineraries and include daily shore excursions, with savings of up to \$3,200pp available now - [CLICK HERE](#) for more info.

## Luxperience opens EOIs

**EXPRESSIONS** of interest are now open for exhibitors eager to present their luxury travel products and services at the 2024 edition of Luxperience.

The event is again scheduled to take place from 19-22 Nov at Sydney's International Convention Centre, with organisers confirming a one-day Business Development Summit will see the event stretch to a fourth day.

Luxperience Event Director, Lynn Ormiston, said she was excited to build on the success of 2023 (**TD** 20 Dec 2023), with meetings held leading to more than \$13 million in sales over the subsequent year.

"With overwhelming support, very positive feedback, and significant interest for the 2024 event, we are extremely confident that we will be attracting more high calibre luxury travel partners and

advisors," Ormiston said.

The Flight Centre Travel Group brand said early interest from new suppliers eager to exhibit at Luxperience for the first time in 2024 was extremely strong.

"The benefit of being in market early creates more opportunity to engage with a larger audience and introduce new elements to this year's event," Ormiston said. "Importantly, the intimate and boutique style of Luxperience will be retained."

The event will see the popular format of 15-minute meetings retained in addition to a variety of high-end networking events. *ML*

Travel Daily ON LOCATION



MELBOURNE

Today's issue of *TD* is coming to you courtesy **Silversea**, who are hosting us aboard *Silver Muse* this week.

**TODAY** sadly marks the end of our time aboard the elegant *Silver Muse*, as we disembark in Melbourne this morning.

We have been very spoilt this week with fine-dining, personalised service and breathtaking views.

# itravel



**STEFANIA SCUDERI**

Jetsetter Travel Ayr QLD  
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## JQ Cook Is package

**AUSSIE** travellers can enjoy the beautiful Cook Islands with Jetstar's first-ever Raratonga holiday packages sale.

Five-night holidays start at \$1,035pp ex SYD and include return Starter fares, 20kg checked bags, accommodation and standard seat selection.

Exclusive bonus offers are also available, with inclusions such as daily breakfast, welcome drinks, daily kids club access and more.

The sale ends 11.59pm AEDT 20 Feb unless sold out prior.

**NEW CALEDONIA ON SALE**

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## NSW pitches Airbnb tax

**THE** NSW Government has launched a discussion paper into short-term rental accommodation which could see property owners incentivised to delist their vacant homes from Airbnb and Stayz and open them to longer-term leases.

A four-week public consultation has today opened to seek input from the public on how to strike the best balance between tourism benefits of short-term rental listings and easing the state's long-term housing dearth.

While the consultation is largely aimed at Sydney, the government is considering limits to how many homes in regional tourism areas can be used for short-term rental.

Revenue measures up for discussion include higher fees for registering a short-term rental, a levy on booking revenues paid by booking websites, or daily usage fees charged to guests.

Owners may also be encouraged to make their properties available for long-term leases instead of

pay-by-the-night rentals.

However, the government has acknowledged the effect these measures may have on regional tourism by potentially reducing the rental pool for visitors.

"We're in a housing crisis, so it's important we look at every available option to boost housing supply, including a shift from non-hosted short-term rentals to long term rentals," said NSW Minister for Planning, Paul Scully. *ML*

## New insurance API

**INSURANCE.COM.AU** has expanded its product selection with a new travel insurance API link with battleface insurance.

The new tie-up allows customers of Insurance.com.au to tailor a travel insurance quote using battleface's unbundled system, starting with the base policy of trip cancellation, personal liability, and emergency medical expenses cover.

## Tassie gets techy

**TOURISM** Tasmania has bucked the AI bandwagon and instead created its own image generator, which relies on the talent of Tasmanian artists rather than tech algorithms.

Dubbed TasmanAI, the online tool aims to keep Tassie at the top of Australians' travel lists by inviting mainlanders to submit image prompts via the Discover Tasmania website.

"TasmanAI is a fun and meaningful way for potential visitors to engage with Tasmania's tourism brand, highlighting the authenticity, creativity and craftsmanship intrinsic to Tasmania's visitor experience," the DMO said.

Prompt submissions are open until 04 Mar - learn more [HERE](#).

## Accor goes for gold

**ACCOR** is working to certify its New Zealand properties as Gold Standard Sustainable Tourism Businesses via a new partnership with Kiwi quality assurance organisation, Qualmark.

The operator's hotels, resorts and apartments across NZ will undergo a rigorous assessment process across across five key sustainability areas - business systems, environment, people, community and culture, and health and safety.

The accreditation is the highest possible standard under the new GSTC-aligned standards, and puts Accor on track to have 100% of its network eco-certified by 2026.



## Window Seat

**WHETHER** it was due to time or by design, Queensland was overlooked by Taylor Swift on her Eras World Tour - but no complaints from airlines and Sydney/Melbourne hotels.

For those unlucky enough to get tickets, all is not lost, with Paradise Resort Gold Coast set to host a Tay Tay-themed extravaganza exclusively for in-house guests on 09 Mar.

The 'Paradise's Version' event will run from 3pm-8pm and feature a themed dance party with a concert packed with Swift hits performed by the in-house band.

Guests can also enjoy Tay Tay Trivia, a best-dressed contest, friendship bracelet making, karaoke and more, with the resort also offering 25% off stays of two nights or more.

## Sun Princess maiden

**PRINCESS** Cruises has cancelled the maiden voyage of its new *Sun Princess* ship for a second time, despite taking delivery of the vessel overnight.

The line has opted for the ship to undergo final technical work to ensure quality control, meaning the 4,300-passenger vessel will now set sail on 28 Feb.

Guests on the cancelled voyage will receive a full refund of the cruise fare and a 50% credit to use on a future Princess sailing.

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## BESTCITIES CONNECTS IN VICTORIA

**THE** meetings industry recently came together for the BestCities Global Forum, which took place in Melbourne over 18-21 Jan.

International association representatives, trade media, industry thought leaders, and representatives from 13 BestCities destinations attended the flagship event, which was supported by the Melbourne Convention Bureau (MCB).

Themed 'Connections with Purpose', the conference featured an education program covering topics such as emerging industry trends and how AI can benefit professional associations.

Delegates also enjoyed a tour of The Lume Melbourne digital art gallery, a progressive dinner starting at rooftop bar Madame Brussels, a reception at The Langham Melbourne, and a boat ride to the Australian Open for evening matches.



"The curated program at Global Forum Melbourne was designed to facilitate peer-to-peer connections between associations and engagement with convention bureaus to establish enduring strategic partnerships beyond mere transactions," MCB CEO Julia Swanson shared.

"Our ambition is to cultivate a community where mutual learning drives the success of business events."

The next BestCities Global Forum will take place in Dublin in Jan 2025, with details including dates and programming to be revealed in the coming months. *JM*

### GC's new venue

**BOOKINGS** are now open for a new luxury event space set to open on the Gold Coast in May at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary.

Designed like a traditional outback property, The Homestead will host weddings and corporate events with a seated capacity of 200 people, and feature a wrap-around verandah, high ceilings and a sandstone fireplace.

Now in its final stages of construction, The Homestead will offer a "uniquely Australian experience" complete with an outback-inspired menu.

The venue will be complemented by an outdoor bar and alfresco dining area, which will be open for visitors to casually dine at daily.

### Pearl Jam returns

**WHILE** bracing for the Swift-nami (*TD* 12 Feb), Sydney has managed to reel in yet another major international musical act, with grunge royalty Pearl Jam set to head Down Under for the first time in 10 years.

The Seattle-based band will perform at the Giants Stadium in Sydney Olympic Park in Nov during the last leg of its newly announced world tour, Dark Matter.

### Shewry to freshen up Vic's event menus

**AUSTRALIAN** event caterer The Fresh Collective has announced the appointment of multi-award-winning chef Ben Shewry as Ambassador for Victorian events.

He will bring the company's ethos of eating seasonally and sourcing sustainably to iconic venues across the state, including the Melbourne Museum and the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Royal Exhibition Building.



Shewry's special menus, which include tailored cocktail and lunch/dinner menus, will also be available on request for all events across The Fresh Collective's venues in Vic, as well as for private events across the state.

### Cook-up at Cliftons

**CLIFTONS** Event Solutions is preparing to host the Asia-Pacific chapter of IACC's Global Copper Skillet chef of the year competition on 21 Feb.

Taking place in Melbourne, the event showcases the artistry and skills of IACC-member conference venue chefs and the importance of food in delivering memorable event experiences.

The competition is part of an IACC study tour, with member attendees and Cliftons VIPs also touring the Cliftons Freshwater Place Melbourne venue.

NEW IN  
2025



## SAY BONJOUR TO BORDEAUX

We're setting sail for a new destination! Check out the new itinerary [here](#) and access marketing resources via our Agent Portal.

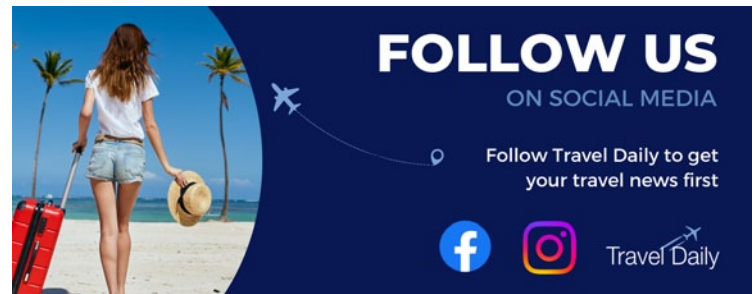
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## APPOINTMENTS

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[appointments@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:appointments@traveldaily.com.au)

**Marriott International** has announced two new appointments across key leadership positions within the Australia, New Zealand and Pacific region. **Kelly Russell**, who has been with the company for 10 years, will take on the role of Area Director, Sales & Distribution, while **Carsten Siebert** has been named as the new Senior Area Director of Operations. He has held a number of operations and general manager positions with Marriott over a span of 25 years.

**Leigh Stock** is the new General Manager of Wanaka's premier lakeside accommodation property, **Edgewater**. Stock is no stranger to the property, as he was its GM from 2003-2014. He currently holds the same title at Holiday Inn Remarkables Park in Queenstown, and will officially return to Edgewater on 06 Mar. Stock brings a wealth of fresh experience to the role, including a stint as Senior Accommodation Manager for the FIFA Women's World Cup last year.

**The Australian Business Events Association (ABEA)** has appointed seasoned industry professional **Maeve Thomas** as its new Membership and Sponsorship Manager, effective from today. Her CV includes 35 years' worth of sales, marketing, and sponsorship roles within the hotel, conference, business and events sector, at companies such as Business Events Sydney and ICMS Australasia. Thomas is tasked with refining the association's membership strategy and fostering deeper membership engagements and relevant partnerships.

Maintaining and boosting Spain's economic, social and environmental reputation are among the duties of **Marta Fernandez**, who has taken on the role of Tourism Counsellor for **Spain Tourism Board**, based in Singapore. In her new role, Fernandez will focus on promoting responsible tourism that advances the image of Spanish destinations, while also highlighting the country's rich history and culture.

## Incentives head into Kakadu



**AGENTS** can earn a \$100 Visa gift card from Journey Beyond for every guest booked on a new eight-day all-inclusive itinerary taking in the NT's Arnhem Land.

Operated by Outback Spirit, the 'Arnhem Land & Kakadu Explorer' adventure gifts travellers an opportunity to connect with local Indigenous communities in the spiritual heart of Australia.

Travellers will experience Arnhem Land (Miwatj), home to the oldest surviving culture in human history while enjoying the beauty of the Top End's unique landscape, with activities including fishing for barramundi in the remote Tomkinson River.

Guests will also be able to enjoy an ancient Dreamtime

story immersion as told by local Indigenous guides, and a scenic flight over the World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park.

Journey Beyond Executive GM Sales and Partnerships, Alicia Triggs, said the new itinerary was developed through market research and insights gained from valued trade partners.

"We're delighted to work closely with key partners to curate a shorter experience showcasing the best of the Top End."

The Arnhem Land & Kakadu Explorer tour will make its debut on 15 Jun and depart on subsequent tours on 28 Jun and 11 Aug, with Outback Spirit's introductory price offer starting from \$7,245ppts. *JH*

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Trina Anthony - Director of Sales

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Chat to Trina about the upcoming changes at W Hollywood!



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Darren Ross - Owner

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Cynthia Schmitt-Easey  
Director, International Sales & Marketing

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## Warner Bros. Studio Tour Hollywood

Helen Albrecht - Sales Manager

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Chat to **Helen** about the Travel Agent Rates available!



## Universal Studios Hollywood

Andrea Blackman  
Sales Manager, International Sales

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Manny Garcia - Director of Sales

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## Los Angeles Tourism

Kat Brown - Director of Travel Trade

Ask **Kat** about the LA Perks Pass and how you can access Travel Trade discounts in LA!